

affording help to others in their studies than in pursuing my own work. For example, on returning home now from my holiday I find a large box full of letters and parcels from naturalists of Great Britain and many countries of Europe, and to answer all these letters and determine the specimens on which my opinion is wanted seems impossible. Collections meanwhile made by me ten and fifteen years ago as well as in more recent years remain almost untouched, and hence also MS. names and greatest neglect with respect to public collections referred to me for determination.

In conclusion, I must ask my scientific friends to be so indulgent as

First, not to write to me to ask questions or submit specimens for examination unless they cannot do without assistance.

Secondly, to be assured that if any letter addressed to me remains unanswered, it is not from discourtesy, but from sheer inability to find time to reply to it.

XLI.—*Descriptions of some new Species of African Butterflies in the Collection of Captain G. E. Shelley.* By EMILY MARY SHARPE.

Fam. Danaidæ.

Genus NEBRODA.

Nebroda lobengula, sp. n.

Nearest to *N. echeria*, Stoll (*Amauris echeria*, Kirby, Syn. Cat. Lepid. p. 8), but differing in the much greater extent of yellow on the hind wing. There is a row of unequal yellow spots on the hind marginal border extending to the submedian nervure. The base of the hind wing is deep brown.

The fore wing has a moderately large yellowish spot in the middle of the discoidal cell, with a second larger oval spot between the first and second median nervules.

Between the radial or discoidal nervules there are two medium-sized yellowish spots near the apical portion. At the apex of the fore wing there is a row of small white spots extending to the hind margin, with four smaller white spots outside the first row of spots, placed about the middle of the

fore wing. Along the costal margin there are two white spots. The underside of the fore wing is a lighter brown, having all the spots plainly marked in white with the exception of the two larger spots, which are yellow.

The hind wing is similar to the fore wing, having the yellow basal area quite as dark as on the upperside, and the spots are white, while near to the precostal nervure there is one small white spot.

Exp. 3.1 inches.

Hab. Matabele Land.

Fam. *Lycænidæ*.

Genus *SPALGIS*.

Spalgis latimarginata, sp. n.

Nearest to *S. epius*, Westwood, but is much larger, and the general colour is of a creamy white. The hind margin has a border of light brown extending to the costa and colouring the wing at the base; it is very wide near the apical portion of the fore wing.

The hind wing has the subcostal nervure paler, with no border along the hind margin, but having a small black spot at the end of each nervule.

The underside of the fore wing has a small black spot at the end of each nervule, and the fine lines of brown are more approximate than in *S. epius*, the lines being confined to a border along the hind margin. From the costa to the base of the wing are transverse lines of brown, less strongly marked and becoming more numerous at the base. A long transverse line of brown extends from about the middle of the fore wing to the middle of the inner margin, dividing the large white patch into two sections. The hind wing has the markings of the same fine character, but has more white between the lines than in *S. epius*.

Exp. ♂ 1.3 inch.

The female has the apex, costa, and hind margin of the fore wing broadly bordered with light greyish brown, widening a little more towards the base of the wing than in the male.

On the hind wing there is a somewhat broader border of brown extending from the costa to the anal angle, the costal margin being white.

The underside of the fore wing has a border of fine transverse lines from the costa to the hind margin, these lines being

more numerous at the base. There is the same fine line down the middle of the wing as in the male.

The hind wing has the base and costal margin suffused with greyish brown, with a small black spot at the end of each nervule.

Exp. ♀ 1·2 inch.

Hab. Senegambia.

Fam. Hesperidæ.

Genus ANTIGONUS.

Antigonus Jamesoni, sp. n.

Nearest to *A. indrani*, Moore, but differs in the general colour being a much lighter and altogether of a warmer yellow. The whole of the fore wing is reddish buff, relieved with white semitransparent spots. There are three white transverse spots at the end of the costa, with three extra spots placed outside the costal spots near the apical portion of the fore wing in a half-circle.

There is a large white spot edged with black in the discoidal cell, with a smaller one placed in the fork of the second and third median nervules. There are three large subconfluent white spots without lines of black, diminishing in size downwards, from the middle of the discoidal cell to the edge of the submedian nervure.

The hind wing has the central portion white, with the submarginal border of the same colour as in the fore wing. The fringe is white, with a row of equidistant black spots; this is followed by a broad subterminal band of buff, which in turn is succeeded by an uneven row of black spots, with a median spot of black between the costal and subcostal nervures. The colour at the base of the wing is dark brown.

The underside is very much paler in colour, with all the spots of the upperside on both wings distinctly marked.

Exp. 1·6 inch.

Hab. Umvuli River.

Genus LEUCOCHITONEA.

Leucochitonea umvulensis, sp. n.

Similar to *L. bicolor*, Trimen (*cf.* Trimen, 'Rhopalocera Africæ Australis,' p. 307, pl. vi. fig. 1, 1866), but differs in being much browner and duller in colour. The nervules are all plainly marked in black, with a very fine black marginal border.

There are six semitransparent spots on the fore wing, three small ones at the end of the costal nervules near the apex, one large one in the discoidal cell, with another between the first and second median nervules near the discoidal spot; a very small spot in the fork of the second and third median nervules. All the spots are pale yellow.

The hind wing is slightly deeper in colour, with a very fine black line along the hind margin. At the anal angle there is a tuft of yellow hairs.

The underside is paler in colour, with the light spots on the fore wing only slightly visible.

The hind wing has the veins plainly marked, especially the subcostal nervure, the costa being yellow. At the anal angle, in addition to the tuft of yellow hairs, there is a large black spot.

Exp. 1.5 inch.

Hab. Umvuli River.

Genus PROTEIDES.

Proteides Shelleyi, sp. n.

Similar to *P. erinnys*, Trimen, but is at once distinguished by the two large yellow spots on the fore wing; one of these is in the middle of the discoidal cell and the other is situated close to the cell between the first and second median nervules. There are some other spots near the submedian nervure, one between the second and third median nervules, and another near the fifth and fourth subcostal nervules near the apex of the fore wing.

The fringe of the fore wing from the first median nervule to the posterior angle is yellow.

The hind wing differs in that the fringe is yellow, with small tufts of brown hairs at the end of each nervule. There is one yellow spot near the base, with a narrow bar of yellow spots from the second subcostal nervure to the middle of the submedian nervure.

The underside is similar to that of *P. erinnys*, but the fore wing differs in the large patch of yellow along the inner margin, extending to the first median nervure. At the base there is a patch of dark brown, and near the apical portion is another brown patch relieved by two transverse lines of purplish grey. The hind margin has three distinct brown spots between the subcostal and radial nervures, the before-mentioned brown patch extending to the first median nervure, where it then becomes much lighter in colour as far as the

submedian nervure. Along the costa there are two streaks of grey alternating with brown.

The hind wing is darker, with the streaks and patches grey. The hind margin has six brown spots, commencing from the first subcostal nervule to the first median nervule. Above this there is a submarginal border of grey. The yellow band of the upperside is indicated by a lighter brown band, having the outlines of pale yellow, the spot being the same in colour. There is a streak of grey from the base of the wing to the costal margin.

Exp. 1.9 inch.

Hab. Fantee (*G. E. S.*).

XLII.—Notes on the Racquet-tailed Rollers.

By H. E. DRESSER.

HAVING been lately engaged in working out the synonymy of the Rollers, I had occasion to examine all available specimens of the Racquet-tailed Rollers, which are still extremely rare in collections, there being, so far as I can ascertain, but four specimens in Great Britain, viz. two in the British Museum, one in Captain Shelley's collection (now purchased by the British Museum authorities), and one in the collection of Canon Tristram, which he has kindly lent to me for examination. The three former of these have all been labelled by Mr. Sharpe as being referable to *Coracias spatulatus*, Trimen; but on receipt of the specimen from Canon Tristram I at once saw that it was specifically distinct from the other three. In order to work out the question I compared them carefully with their nearest allies, *Coracias abyssinicus* and *C. caudatus*, and may point out that all the Racquet-tailed Rollers differ from these in having the median wing-coverts cinnamon and in having all the tail-feathers conspicuously terminated with black and blue, whereas in *C. abyssinicus* and *C. caudatus* all the rectrices but the central and two lateral ones are pale blue throughout. The two adult birds in the British Museum, one from the Umvuli River, East Africa, and the other from Caconda, in West Africa, have the throat and breast blue, exactly as in *Coracias abyssinicus*; whereas the third, from Pantamenka, East Africa, labelled as young, has the throat and breast somewhat striped with pale blue, buff in general coloration on the sides, but otherwise pale turquoise-blue. The specimen from Canon Tristram, however, from Newala, East Africa, has the sides of the